

NOTES AND NEWS

A.M.S. CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year the Society undertook a new venture in order to augment its income and ensure the appearance of the annual Journal "African Music".

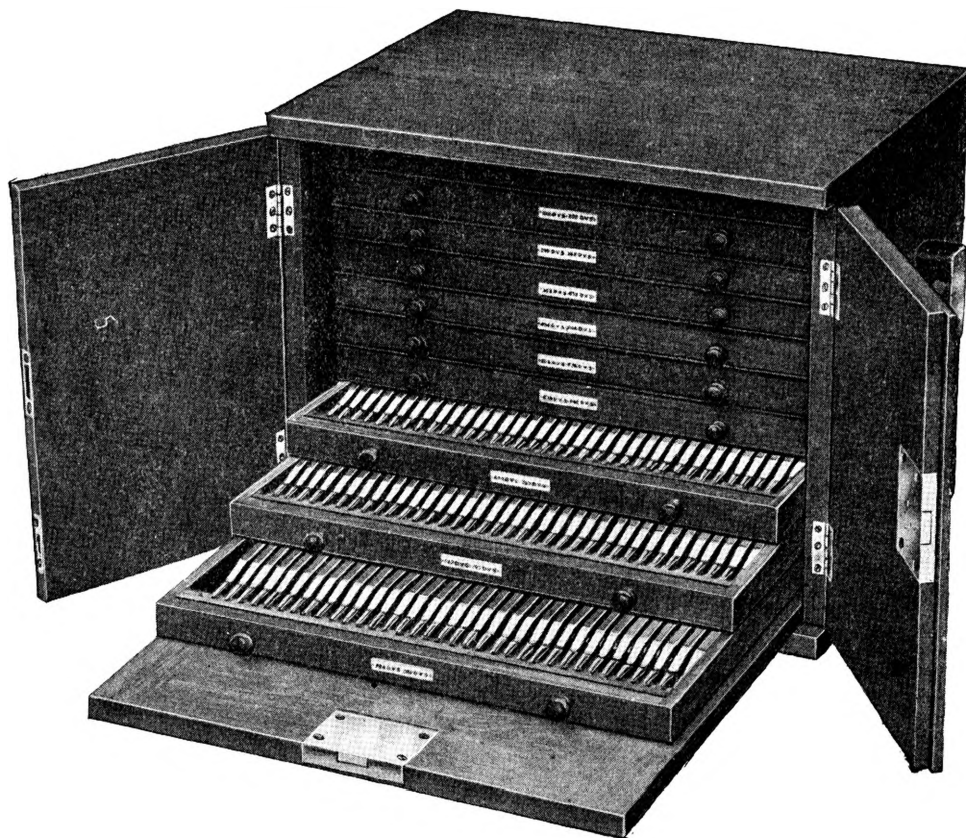
Membership subscriptions have never fully covered the cost of printing the Journal each year and, consequently, other sources of revenue have to be found. The Committee considered that the reproduction of six of the African pictures in the Exhibition collection, jointly owned by the African Music Society and two African Clubs in Johannesburg, would make attractive cards. Indeed, they proved to be so, and, after negotiation with printers and others, the set of six most striking and colourful cards appeared. The Society through this enterprise, and largely on account of the untiring energy of the Hon. Treasurer, Col. H. W. Boardman, sold several thousand cards and the production cost of this Journal was thereby guaranteed. The Society and Committee wish to thank all those who by selling or by buying its cards made this new departure a success.

It is hoped that a further set of pictures will be reproduced for Christmas 1959, and, if so, members will be notified in good time.

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A UNIQUE SET OF TUNING FORKS FOR STUDENTS OF AFRICAN MODALITY

The Uganda Society wishes to dispose of its rare set of 374 highly accurate tuning forks which it had placed at the disposal of Dr. K. P. Waschmann during his period of research into the music of Uganda while he was still Curator of the Museum at Kampala. Recently ill health forced Dr. Waschmann



to return to England and now the Uganda Society, having no new musicologist in view, wish to sell the set of forks.

The forks range from 176 cycles per second (a little above the F below Middle C) through over two octaves up to 870 cycles per second (the second A above Middle C) in steps of 2 vibrations per fork. This gives students extreme accuracy, especially in the upper octave.

This set which is unique in the world was made especially for the purpose by Ragg and Company of Sheffield, a firm which has supplied several other sets of 54 forks covering a single octave to music students in Africa, including the African Music Society.

Anyone wishing to purchase the set or learn further details about it is advised to write either to the Society, to the Uganda Society at P.B. Kampala, or to the makers themselves, Wm. Ragg and Company.

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The twelfth Annual Conference of the International Folk Music Council of which the African Music Society is an Associate Member, will be held in Sinaia, Rumanian People's Republic, from August 12th to 17th, 1959.

The main themes of the Conference will be:—

1. (a) Relationship between music and text in folk song.
(b) Relationship between Movement, music and text in folk dance.
2. Problems of research in folk instruments.
3. Tradition and innovation in contemporary folk music.
4. Analysis of vocal and instrumental styles.

It is sincerely hoped that some members of the African Music Society will be able to attend the Conference and participate in the discussions.

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At the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology held at Boston, Massachusetts, from December 27 to 30th, 1958, the following subjects, which are likely to interest Members of the African Music Society, were discussed:—

1. "The African Hemiolia-Style" by Rose Brandel.
2. "The Evaluation of Tempo" by Mieczyslaw Kolinski.
3. "African Music—Some Criticism and Suggestions Regarding Recording and Transcribing Techniques" by Darius L. Thieme.
4. "Marriage and Courtship Songs of the Ovambo in South West Africa" by Laura Boulton.
5. "On the Methodology of Interval Measurement in Non-European Music: Experiences with Ethnic Music in Israel" by Ruth Torgovnik Katz and Dalia Cohen.

Members will no doubt look forward to the publication of these papers.

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The Folklore Institute of America held its fifth session at the Indiana University, Bloomington, from June to August and on the 9th of July. Africa was the subject discussed by Professor Melville J. Herskovits of North-western University.

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From: "*East Africa and Rhodesia*"—September 4th, 1958.

Mr. Gerishon Mugeleli Manani, an African assistant supervisor of schools in Kenya has received a British Council Bursary to study music at Trinity College, London, which he will enter in September. Already an expert on African folk music, of which he has made many tape-recordings, Mr. Manani hopes to write a book on Luhya folk songs after his stay in Britain.

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Fact Paper No. 47, issued by the State Information Office of the South African Government as a supplement to its Digest of South African Affairs, was written by the Honorary Secretary of the African Music Society, under the title "*Bantu Culture in South Africa*". It dealt briefly with a study in sound, form and colour, touching on folk music, beadwork and mural patterns. The two latter, are notably more developed by South African tribes than most examples to be found in other African Territories.

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The portion of the Zambezi Valley where the field recording unit of the International Library of African Music collected examples of the Valley Tonga music in June, 1957, has now been entirely inundated by the rising waters of the Kariba Dam 90 miles downstream (see pages 45-47 'African Music', Vol. 1, No. 4.).

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AWARD

The Nigerian Institute of Music is instituting a special Music Honour—the International Music Award. This is a bi-annual award to renowned Musicians anywhere on earth who contribute or have contributed most for the promotion of African or Negro music.

The first of these awards will be made in 1959, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Institute in August. In all, nine Musicians have been recommended for this first award. The recommendation will be ratified by the General Meeting of the Institute early in 1959.

The Nigerian Institute of Music is a non-denominational music organisation—It was founded in 1949 for the promotion of Music, particularly for the study and preservation of African Music. The Rt. Rev. A. W. Howells, O.B.E., M.A., B.D., Bishop of Lagos, is its Deputy president.

Its patrons include:—

1. Dr. the Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, M.A., M.Sc., LL.D., D.Litt., premier of Eastern Nigeria.
2. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Charles Heerey, C.S.Sp., M.A., D.D., Arch-bishop of Onitsha.
3. His Highness Okosi II, the Obi of Onitsha.

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PROFESSOR WILLARD RHODES

Professor Willard and Mrs. Rhodes of Columbia University spent several days at the headquarters of the International Library of African Music during October, 1958, on their way North to undertake a musical survey of Southern Rhodesia in conjunction with the National Museum at Bulawayo.

Since arriving in the country they have worked both in Bulawayo and in the North-Eastern district of Mtoko.

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INCREASING SOVIET INTEREST IN AFRICA

Several publications have recently drawn attention to the interest which Soviet Russia is taking in African affairs, including the arts and music of this Continent. It is understood that letters from an institution in Cairo have been received in most African territories, especially by the various Societies of Arts asking for all available information including sound recordings on African folk musics and other arts and crafts.

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GHANA MUSIC SOCIETY

The African Music Society welcomes the establishment of a new territorial music society in Ghana, on May 2nd, 1958. The new Society has as its President Mr. J. H. Nketia, who was given the Cowell Award this year (1958) for outstanding work on behalf of African music. Other well known names who will be associated with the venture are Ephraim Amu, Head of the Music School at Kumasi and Atta Annan Mensah of the Ghana Broadcasting System.

During the Conference at which the Society was launched, several interesting subjects were discussed including "The Development of Instrumental African Music"; "Professionalism in the Musical Practice of Ghana"; "African Dance Drama"; a symposium on Notation; and "Problems on Publishing".

Those interested in the work contemplated are asked to communicate with: The Ghana Music Society, c/o Department of Sociology, University College of Ghana, Achimota.

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NEW HYMNS

Four articles on "Hymns for the Africans" by the Rev. A. M. Jones, U.M.C.A. published in the quarterly bulletin of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, have raised considerable interest. In them the author reiterates what he and the African Music Society have been stressing for many years and is summed up in the words of Dr. Carrington who is also a Research Member of the African Music Society thus "The traditional music . . . is so closely connected with speech-tones that it can be regarded as little more than the sung speech-tones of the words used."

What higher praise is necessary for the melodies of good ballads anywhere!

Father Jones concludes that "there is no doubt that the Roman Catholics are more alive to the essential need of encouraging the peoples of the world to worship God in terms of their own aesthetic medium than are the non-Roman missions in Africa".

He quotes an extract from the now famous Papal Encyclical of Christmas 1955 which gave such impetus to the work among Catholics.

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Mr. John Blacking has completed his field research work amongst the Venda tribe in the Northern Transvaal, Union of South Africa, and is now engaged upon writing his notes for publication.

RECORDS OF JUST AND MEANTONE TEMPERAMENT.

The Musurgia Records of New York have recently issued a series of long playing discs on the theory and practice of Just Intonation, Unequal Temperaments and similar subjects which may interest some of our African Music Society members who are studying the tunings of African instruments. Although the Society itself is unable to afford the cost of the published discs, the Editor of this Journal would be glad to hear from anyone who has had practical experience of this series of discs and to have a review for the benefit of other students. Their address is 309 West 104th Street, New York 25, N.Y., United States of America.

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COWELL AWARD

No Cowell Award has been presented this year as the Society has received no evidence of sufficient activity to qualify any African student for the Award. It is hoped that recommendations will be forthcoming in 1959 for the Award to be made in the coming year.